# GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
# ENVIRONMENT, FORESTS AND CLIMATE CHANGE
# LOK SABHA

STARRED QUESTION NO:68
ANSWERED ON:01.03.2016
Migratory Birds
Joshi Shri Chandra Prakash;Majhi Shri Balabhadra

**Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT, FORESTS AND CLIMATE CHANGE be pleased to state:**

(a) the details of various migratory birds visiting the country especially during winters;
(b) whether there has been a decline in the number of such migratory birds during the last few decades, if so, the details thereof and the reasons therefor;
(c) the various steps taken by the Government for protection of migratory birds and development of their habitats; and
(d) the funds allocated and utilized for the said purpose during each of the last three years and the current year, location and State-wise?

## Answer

MINISTER OF STATE (INDEPENDENT CHARGE) FOR ENVIRONMENT, FOREST AND CLIMATE CHANGE

(SHRI PRAKASH JAVADEKAR)

(a) to (d) A Statement is laid on the Table of the House.

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STATEMENT REFERRED TO IN REPLY TO PARTS (a), (b), (c) AND (d) OF THE LOK SABHA STARRED QUESTION NO *68 REGARDING 'MIGRATORY BIRDS' BY SHRI CHANDRA PRAKASH JOSHI AND SHRI BALABHADRA MAJHI DUE FOR REPLY ON 01.03.2016.

(a) and (b) Although no specific assessments is conducted by the Ministry with respect to the species of migratory birds visiting India, literatures published by experts including Scientific Institutions suggest that about 370 species of birds migrate to India, out of which 175 species undertake long distance migration using the Central Asian Flyway area, which also include Amur falcons, Egyptian vultures, Plovers, Ducks, Storks, Ibises, Flamingoes, Jacanas, Pochards, Sociable Lapwing, etc.

As per the 'Asian Water bird census' coordinated by the Wetlands International, some migratory birds in the region showed a decreasing trend during the last decade, whereas some species indicated a stable population. The decline in the number of migratory birds is attributed to various factors including wetland reclamation, pollution of wetland through domestic sewage, hunting, trapping in the migratory routes, indiscriminate use of pesticides & fertilizers, reduction of habitat, climate change, etc.

(c) The important steps taken by the Government for protection of migratory birds include:

i. Rare and endangered species of birds including migratory birds are included in Schedule-I of the Wild Life (Protection) Act, 1972 thereby according them highest degree of protection.
ii. Stringent punishments have been provided in the Wild Life (Protection) Act, 1972 for violation of provisions of the Act.
iii. Important habitats of birds, including migratory birds have been notified as protected Areas under the Wild Life (Protection) Act, 1972 for better conservation and protection of birds and their habitats.
iv. The Ministry has notified the Wet Land (Conservation and Management) Rules, 2010, for better protection of wetlands in the country.
v. Focused protection measures involving the local communities have been taken up in the State of Nagaland for protection of Amur Falcons that migrate to North East India on their route to Southern Africa. With the coordinated efforts of the Forest Department, Government of Nagaland, NGO's, scientific institutes and local communities, killing of Amur Falcons have become 'Zero' since 2013.

vi. Vulture species have been identified as one of the species for recovery programme for critically endangered species under the Centrally Sponsored Scheme of Integrated Development of Wildlife Habitats.
vii. Financial and technical assistance is provided to the State/UT Governments for protection and management of Protected Areas.
viii. Wildlife Crime Control Bureau has been established for control of illegal trade in wildlife and its parts and products.
ix. India is a signatory to the Convention on Migratory Species (CMS) and India has also signed Memorandum of

Understanding(MOU) with CMS on Conservation of Siberian Cranes. The Cabinet Committee has also approved India's joining the Raptor MOU with CMS.
x. India is a contracting Party to the Ramsar Convention (Convention on Wetlands) and 25 wetlands in India have been notified as Ramsar Sites.

(d) The Sanctuary-wise details of funds released and utilized for protection of Migratory Birds and their habitat is at Annexure.

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